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# Inaugural Thurgood Marshall Memorial Lecture

Roger Williams University School of Law

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Thurgood Marshall was one of America's leading legal reformers and served as the nation's first African-American Supreme Court Justice. "In our commitment to diversity and public interest endeavors, it seemed appropriate that as the only law school in Rhode Island, we should have a program that honors Justice Marshall for his achievements and accomplishments," said Harvey Rishikof, Dean of the Roger Williams University School of Law.

Eric H. Holder, Jr. was asked to speak at the first lecture on behalf of his contributions to public service. Mr. Holder graduated from Columbia Law School in 1976. While in law school, he clerked at the N.A.A.C.P. Legal Defense Fund and the Department of Justice's Criminal Division. Upon graduating from Columbia Law School, Deputy Attorney General Holder moved to Washington and joined the Department of Justice as part of the Attorney General's Honors Program. He was assigned to the newly formed Public Integrity Section in 1976 and was asked to investigate and prosecute official corruption on the local, state and federal levels. In 1988, Mr. Holder was nominated by President Reagan to become an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. In 1993, President Clinton nominated Mr. Holder to become the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia. He was the first African-American to serve in that position. As U.S. Attorney, Mr. Holder created a new Domestic Violence Unit, revitalized the Victim/Witness Assistance Program, and developed "Operation Ceasefire." Holder was sworn in as Deputy Attorney General on July 18, 1997, by a Senate vote of 100 to 0. He is the first African-American to serve as Deputy Attorney General.



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## INAUGURAL THURGOOD MARSHALL MEMORIAL LECTURE

*Featuring*

**Eric H. Holder, Jr.**

*Former Deputy Attorney General of the United States*

Friday, March 23, 2001

4:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the Rhode Island Bar Association with the Committee on Involvement of Minorities and the Rhode Island Bar Foundation.

Roger Williams University School of Law  
Moot Court Room, Second Floor  
Ten Metacom Avenue  
Bristol, Rhode Island